



March /April 2023 Parents' Newsletter

Welcome, Spring!

To ensure the Health and Safety of our children I would be grateful if the following precautions are adhered to: -

- ❖ On icy/frosty/snowy days please use the appropriate gritted pathways around the school.
- ❖ All children need to be sent to school with the appropriate outdoor clothing for this time of year. Coats, hats, scarfs, gloves and proper footwear (plus change of shoes) are essential because children are encouraged to play outdoors on dry days.
- ❖ On very snowy days it is advisable to check any planned closures on our Facebook page (search Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery) and Seesaw.

World Book Day

World Book Day is almost here again! We are celebrating it on **Thursday 2nd March, 2023**. It's going to be another page turner.

Throughout the week we are going to run a **"Reading Buddy"** scheme where KS2 and KS1 will pair up with Foundation Stage and Nursery children to read to each other and take part in fun activities together based on

the book of their choice.

The World Book Day website (www.worldbookday.com) is a great website with loads of ideas, live readings, author interviews and resources.



Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair takes place the week beginning **20th March to Friday 24th March**. Children will be taken to the book fair when it arrives by their class teacher. Children will then be able to purchase books and stationery at lunchtime (every day) or after school from 2pm - 2.15pm (Primary 1-3) and 3pm - 3.15pm (Primary 4-7). There will be separate arrangements for Nursery.

There are also book tokens available (one per child) which will be given to the children when they buy a book. This entitles the children to £1 off.

Litter Workshops

Belfast City Council are coming in to do some outdoor litter workshops with the children in P1-P6 on Wednesday 1st March. The children will be outside in our outdoor areas for these activities so warm waterproof coats with a hood should be worn.



School Closure Days



School will be closed on **Friday 17th March** for St Patrick's day as a school holiday.

Nursery Enrolment 2023/24

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance for Ballysillan Nursery will be posted on **Thursday 27th April 2023**.

Primary One Enrolment 2023/24

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance to Ballysillan Primary will be posted on **Thursday 27th April 2023**.

We look forward to welcoming these pupils next year.



Punctuality

The school day starts at 8:55am and all pupils need to be in line at 8:50am to ensure they are ready to go into school on time. Starting late means that they are missing valuable learning time.

Sickness

Please note that if your child has vomiting, diarrhoea or running a temperature they must be kept off 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. This will help stop the spread of infection/sickness throughout the school.

It is extremely important that you inform the class teacher via Seesaw if your child will not be in school, the reasons for this absence or if your child needs out for a medical appointment.

Thriving Families Parent Workshops

P1: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P1's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Wednesday 8th March between 1pm and 2pm. P1's theme is "The Garden".

P2: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P2's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Wednesday 22nd March between 1pm and 2pm. P2's theme is "Easter Extravaganza"

P4/5: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P4/5's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Wednesday 15th March between 2pm and 3pm. P4/5's theme is "Big Ballysillan Quiz".

P6: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P6's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Wednesday 26th April between 2pm and 3pm. P6's theme is "Excite ICT"

Shared Education

This month Primary 1 and Primary 4/5 will be taking part in Shared Education with Sacred Heart. Please look out for specific details on Seesaw regarding dates and times.

P4 Trip to The MAC Theatre Belfast Children's Festival

On Friday 10th March Primary 3 & 3/4 will be going on a trip to the MAC Theatre in Belfast as part of Belfast Children's festival. We will be watching a short play called The Invisible Man. Please remember to send back permission slips to your class teacher by 3rd March if you would like your child to attend this free event.

P3/4 Museum Workshop

P3/4 are taking part in a Museum's on the Move art workshop with the Ulster Museum on Wednesday 21st and 28th March.



P7 Residential

A residential has been arranged for the Primary 7 children from Monday 17th April to Wednesday 19th April to Ardalun run by Belfast Activity Centre. They will leave school on the Monday morning and return on the Wednesday morning - more details to follow. There will be a full programme of activities for the three days. If you are interested, please return your permission note, if not already done and balance by Friday 24th March 2023.

Buddy Up

Primary 7 will complete their final Buddy Up session in Sacred Heart Primary School on Thursday 2nd March 2023.

Tools For Solidarity

Primary 6 and 7 will be participating in this workshop. The children will learn all about the challenges faced by children and adults in other countries. They will learn all about what they need to do to survive, giving an insight of how hard things are for people in Third World countries.

BEAM Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop

Using the medium of The Arts, P7 pupils will be creating engaging learning experiences through drama and storytelling. This programme will address sensitive issues, such as anti-social behaviour, with the P7 children.

P2 Streamvale Farm

We are very excited to join our friends from Sacred Heart on a trip to Streamvale Farm on Tuesday 21st March.

P3 Trip to Spa Forest Park

As part of Shared Education P3 will be going to Spa Forest Park on Wednesday 29th March. Please look out on Seesaw for more details from Miss Mercer.

Foundation Stage/KS1 Easter Service

Nursery and Primary 1 - 3 will celebrate Easter together with our families and friends on Friday 24th March at 10am in the Assembly Hall. All welcome!

Belfast City Council Puppet Show

P1-4 Puppet Show on Monday 20th March in the school Assembly Hall.

Parenting Workshop-Stress and Anxiety with children

We have booked a private behaviour consultant here in Ballysillan P.S to help support all our parents. This workshop will focus on how to manage stress and anxiety with your children at home. The workshop will be held on Friday 21st April in the school Assembly Hall from 9.15am-11.15am. Lots more information will be posted on our school Facebook page closer to the time. You do not have to book a slot, however, if you are interested in this event, please can you let your teacher know via Seesaw or email info@ballysillan.belfast.ni.sch.uk.

P7 Supporting Families in North Belfast Transition Programme

On 26th April, P7 will be participating in one of two workshops on their transition to Secondary School.



Easter Fun Day

On Friday 31st March we will be having an Easter class fun day. This is a non-uniform day and children can bring in a few treats/sweets for their class party (school will provide refreshments).

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED AT 12PM - PROMPT PICK UP PLEASE.

